



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

Office of Marketing  
Animal Industries and Consumer Services

Larry Hogan, Governor

Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary

Mary Ellen Setting, Deputy Secretary

Animal Health

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

www.mda.maryland.gov

410.841.5810 Baltimore/Washington

410.841.5999 Fax

800.492.5590 Toll Free

## Collection & Submission of Avian Swab Samples for Avian Influenza Virus and Newcastle Disease Virus testing.

**Sample collection must be performed by personnel trained and approved by Maryland Department of Agriculture.**

**Samples submitted from non approved personnel will not be accepted.**

Brain Heart Infusion (BHI): To order or pick up BHI from Salisbury Animal Health Laboratory or Frederick Animal Health Laboratory, call with request 7-10 days prior to need. BHI can be stored in a home refrigerator or freezer. If you have access to a thermometer, set the freezer temperature around -20°C (-4°F) and the refrigerator around 4°C (40°F). Un-inoculated BHI can be stored in the refrigerator for a period of 5 days and in the freezer for 6 months. BHI should be disposed of after these time periods. BHI must be kept in a cooler with adequate ice packs when taken into the field for sampling. **Unused BHI taken into the field and not used must be disposed of and not re-refrigerated or re-frozen. Do not use BHI if at any time it appears cloudy. Do not inoculate tubes if they have less than appropriate starting volume (3 ml or 5.5 ml).**

Correct swab type: polyester or rayon swabs with plastic handle (flocked or spun head).

BHI Tube Volume	# Swabs per Pool	Species	Sampling Route
3 ml	1 to 6	Gallinaceous Poultry (chicken, turkey, quail)	Tracheal
	1 to 5	Domestic Ducks & Wild Waterfowl	Cloacal
5.5 ml	6 to 11	Gallinaceous Poultry (chicken, turkey, quail)	Tracheal

**\*Swabs submitted dry or in a media other than BHI will not be accepted\***

### Inoculated Samples Accepted for Testing

- One species per tube.
- One premise/house per tube.
- One sampling route per tube.
- Correct sampling route depending on species.
- Correct pooling scheme according to above chart.
- Swabs removed from tubes.
- No less than 2.0 ml, preferably 2.5 ml or more BHI remaining per tube (for 5.5 ml and 3 ml tubes).
- Outside of tubes arrive dry, caps tightened, and disinfected with Virkon-S or 10% bleach for 10 minutes after collection & wiped clean.
- Tubes clearly numbered & labeled.
- Arrive within 72 hours of collection for test running at lab within 96 hours of collection (**samples rejected if greater than 96 hours post collection**).
- Arrive with ice packs & tubes cool to the touch; samples cannot arrive frozen or warm.
- Samples arrive with appropriate and completed submission form including date and time collected (AI Samples: MDA E-06 form; Other Samples: general submission form for corresponding laboratory).

**\*\*If samples arrive outside of the above collection & shipping requirements, re-submission will be required\*\***

Please contact either laboratory with questions or concerns:

Salisbury Animal Health Laboratory, 27722 Nanticoke Rd. Salisbury, MD 21801, (410) 543-6610

Frederick Animal Health Laboratory, 1840 Rosemont Ave. Frederick, MD 21702, (301) 600-1548